

as illustrated in Figure 2, two die-cut slots (214 and 212 in Figure 2) for holding a metal key and a rectangular magnetic key card, respectively.

Independent claim 1 is directed to the single-sheet, combined registration form and key packet illustrated in Figure 2.

Claim 1 recites:

1. A rectangular, single-sheet registration form and key packet comprising:
 - a registration form;
 - an unfolded key packet separated the registration form by a line of perforations, the unfolded key packet including at most two lines of perforations that allow the unfolded key packet to be quickly and accurately folded into a complete key packet in two or fewer steps; and
 - one or more die-cut slots in the unfolded key packet which serve as a slot or slots to hold a number of keys in the complete key packet.

Thus, Applicant's rectangular, single-sheet registration form and key packet includes: (1) a registration form; (2) an unfolded key packet separated from the registration form by a line of perforations; and (3) one or more die-cut slots in the unfolded key packet which serve as a slot or slots for a number of keys.

Skelton discloses a single-sheet ticket envelope. Skelton does not, however, include die-cut slots, a detachable registration form, or a registration form and key packet. Moreover, Skelton discloses complex embodiments that require numerous folding operations. For example, the embodiment shown in Figure 1 would require nine folding operations in order to assemble the complete ticket envelope. Finally, Skelton's unfolded form is not rectangular, having a protruding flap (43 in Figure 1), and could not therefore be fed through a laser printer. Thus, by itself, Skelton does not disclose even one of Applicant's claimed elements.

Cowan is also a ticket envelope. However, Cowan's ticket envelope requires application of an adhesive during the manufacturing process: "Of course with such an arrangement, adhesive 42 would be applied to the outer face of flap 20" (Cowan, column 2, lines 50-52). Thus, Cowan's ticket envelope cannot be "quickly and accurately folded into a complete key packet in two or fewer steps." Moreover, Cowan employs fold lines rather than lines of perforations to facilitate assembly of the ticket envelope, and includes more than two

fold lines (34, 40, and 44 in Figure 3). Finally, like Skelton's ticket envelope, Cowan's unfolded ticket envelope is not rectangular, but includes several asymmetrical flaps (16, 20, and 22 in Figure 2) that would prevent feeding of the unfolded ticket envelope through a laser printer.

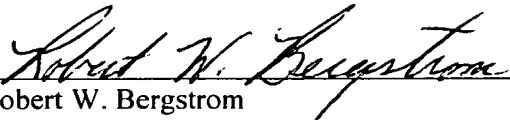
Jacobs discloses a combined key holder and booklet. Like Cowan, Jacobs' key holder and booklet requires assembly operations in addition to simple folding operations. Moreover, Jacobs is not a single-sheet form, but is instead manufactured from multiple sheets (e.g. Figure 7). Jacobs does include a slit (40 in Figure 4) for holding a key, but does not characterize that slit as being "die-cut."

Thus, Cowan discloses a detachable flap, Jacobs discloses a slit for holding a key, and Cowan, Jacobs, and Skelton all disclose various assembled envelopes. However, neither Cowan, Jacobs, nor Skelton disclose a rectangular, single-sheet registration form and key packet with "at most two lines of perforations that allow the unfolded key packet to be quickly and accurately folded into a complete key packet in two or three steps." Thus, no possible combination of Cowan, Jacobs, or Skelton produces the elements claimed by Applicant in claim 1. Because the remaining claims in the current application depend from claim 1, Applicant's representative believes that they also are not made obvious by a combination of Cowan, Jacobs, and Skelton.

Finally, Applicant's representative does not believe that a sufficient motivation for the combination has been identified by the Examiner. The motivation for Applicant's invention is to produce a registration form and key packet with pre-printed information that can be completed, via laser printer, by a hotel employee at the time that a guest registers at the hotel. In order to be usable, all features and elements must be included in a single, rectangular pre-printed sheet. Neither Skelton, Jacobs, nor Cowan are directed to a laser-printed registration form and key packet, and therefore neither Cowan, Jacobs, nor Skelton have any motivation or incentive to combine the elements for which the Examiner cited these references into a single rectangular, single-sheet registration form and key packet. Applicant's invention is directed to an entirely new market enabled by laser printing and personal computers.

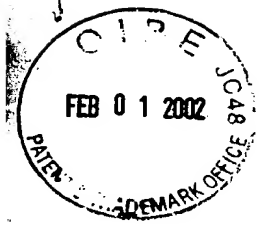
All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A rectangular, single-sheet registration form and key packet comprising:

a registration form;

an unfolded key packet separated from the registration form by a line of perforations, the unfolded key packet including [a number] at most two [of] lines of perforations that allow the unfolded key packet to be quickly and accurately folded into a complete key packet in two or fewer steps; and

one or more die-cut slots in the unfolded key packet which serve as a slot or slots [for] to hold a number of keys in the complete key packet.

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